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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 48th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 29 July 1994, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. BUTLER (Australia)

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ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 11.40 a.m.

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEMES (continued)

(a) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/1994/L.37)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-president of the Council, Mr. Mihai Horia C. Botez (Romania) (E/1994/L.37).

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that agreement had been reached in informal consultations on the draft agreed conclusions and he recommended that they should be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft agreed conclusions in document E/1994/L.37.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the GATT secretariat on trade and environmental matters (E/1994/43) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the UNCTAD secretariat on trade and environmental matters (E/1994/47).

It was so decided.

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (continued) (E/1994/L.33)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-president of the Council, Mr. Enrique Tejerá-Paris (Venezuela) (E/1994/L.33).

Miss FONSECA (Venezuela) said that the draft agreed conclusions were the result of informal consultations and she recommended that they should be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft agreed conclusions in document E/1994/L.33.

It was so decided.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS OF THE 1993 COORDINATION SEGMENT OF THE COUNCIL RELATING TO (ii) COORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELDS OF PREVENTIVE ACTION AND INTENSIFICATION OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST MALARIA AND DIARRHOEAL DISEASES, IN PARTICULAR CHOLERA (continued) (E/1994/L.28)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/1994/L.28 entitled "Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera".

Mr. DANGUE REWAKA (Gabon) said that the last part of draft resolution, after the word "Africa", had been amended to read "which may include a mechanism to improve coordination among the United nations system agencies in a manner that ca enhance action on this issue and to mobilize the national, bilateral and multilateral funds required for this purpose and

(Mr. Dangue Rewaka, Gabon)

improve the efficiency of existing programmes with the same aim". The contact group on the draft resolution had agreed on the text and recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1994/L.28, as amended without a vote.

It was so decided.

Mr. RUNGE (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, reaffirmed the Union's support for the general thrust of draft resolution E/1994/L.28. It dealt with an important subject which should remain a priority. The Secretary-General should submit a report on the effectiveness of existing modalities at the next session of the Council. He should also be requested to present options for improving coordination among the agencies of the United Nations system and should explore the possibility of enhancing the existing coordination structures. The possibility of setting up new mechanisms should be approached with caution. On that understanding, the States members of the European Union had joined the consensus on draft resolution E/1994/L.28.

Mr. BELHIMEUR (Observer for Algeria), speaking also on behalf of China and the Group of 77, expressed satisfaction at the consensus achieved on draft resolution E/1994/L.28 and the spirit of cooperation demonstrated by all delegations in that connection.

Mr. AKPLOGAN (Benin) supported the statement by the representative of Algeria and expressed his satisfaction that the draft resolution had been adopted without a vote. He hoped that that would focus the attention of the international community on the question of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 3.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued) (E/1994/L.21 and L.23)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/1994/L.21, entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon". Angola, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Gabon, India and Madagascar had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. DANGUE REWAKA (Gabon) said that the first line of the fourth preambular paragraph had been revised to read "Reaffirming the great need to continue". The contact group on the draft resolution had reached agreement and recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

Mr. EL MOAKAF (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his country wished to join the consensus on the draft resolution under consideration.

The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1994/L.21, as revised, without a vote.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/1994/L.23, entitled "Measures to be taken following the cyclones and floods that have affected Madagascar". Gabon and India had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution. In the fourth preambular paragraph, the phrase "Bearing in mind" had been replace by the phrase "Taking into account".

Mr. DANGUE REWAKA (Gabon) said that the contact group on the draft resolution had reached agreement during informal consultations. Paragraph 4, subparagraphs (a) and (b) had been revised to read:

"(a) To further evaluate, with the participation of the international organizations of the United nations system, the damage caused by these cyclones and floods and the medium-term and long-term impact of these disasters on the national economy and to compile information capable of promoting concerted international assistance taking into account the data already available;

"(b) To communicate the results of this further evaluation to the international community;".

He recommended that the Council should adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1994/L.23, as revised, without a vote.

It was so decided.

Mr. RAKOTONDRAMBOA (Madagascar) thanked all delegations for the solidarity they had demonstrated towards hi country. The government of Madagascar attached primary importance to the implementation of a rehabilitation and reconstruction programme for the areas affected by the disasters, in view of their negative impact on the country,s development. It hoped that the solidarity shown at the time of the emergency would continue in response to its appeals for assistance in its rehabilitation efforts. A full and rapid evaluation of the damage and its effects would be needed, and his Government anxiously awaited the assistance of the Secretary-General in that regard.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (E/1994/L.29)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/1994/L.29.

Mrs. VALLE CAMINO (Cuba) said that, after consultations, a number of changes had been made to the text of draft resolution E/1994/L.29 in the interests of achieving consensus. In the fifth line of paragraph 3, the

(Mrs. Valle Camino, Cuba)

phrase "necessary moral and material" should be replace by the word "appropriate" and in the third line of paragraph 6, the word "additional" should be deleted.

The last part of paragraph 10, after the phrase "the United Nations system", should read: "and in coordinating the activities of the specialized agencies in extending effective assistance to the peoples of colonial Territories, and calls upon the executive bodies of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to consider contributing to the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the Non-Self-Governing Territories affected by natural disasters, and to look to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States for guidance concerning their roles in natural disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery, taking into account the outcome of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction;".

A new paragraph should be inserted after paragraph 10, with the following wording: "Encourages Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;".

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1994/L.29, as revised, without a vote.

It was so decided.

Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that his delegation was encouraged by the removal from the text of objectionable language which had appeared in the corresponding resolution of the previous year. While it would not block the apparent consensus regarding the text, it remained concerned by the evidence of old thinking that it still contained.

The resolution did not reflect important successes in the field of decolonization and reiterated the outdated notion which equated the process of self-determination with independence. Other options should not be ignored, especially since several of the original Territories had freely chosen them. The resolution did not recognize the benefits that Non-Self Governing Territories derived from administering Powers which conscientiously fulfilled their obligations in partnership with the people of the Territories.

The political, economic and social development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories remained key responsibilities of both the administering Powers and the United Nations system. The United States remained conscious of its role with regard to its three Territories and would continue to meet its responsibilities under the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Kuehl, United States)

Had the resolution been brought to a vote, his delegation would have abstained.

(d) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/1994/L.32 and L.44)

Draft decision E/1994/L.32

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision E/1994/L.32 entitled "Composition of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights".

Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) said that the report of the Secretary-General, which had been requested in resolution 1994/56 of the Commission on Human Rights, had not been ready in time for the Council to hold debate as planned. He wished to draw attention, however, to the current composition of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights: of its 68 staff members, 39 were from the group of Western European and other States, 4 from the group of Latin American and Caribbean States, 11 from the African group and 10 from the Asian group. The developing countries, which represented two thirds of the membership of the Organization, were thus represented by only 25 staff members, or 33,2 per cent, in the Centre for Human Rights. That was a matter for some concern for the sponsors of the draft decision in the light of Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter, which called for the recruitment of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

Since, however, the report was a interim report, and would be submitted to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, the sponsors wished to withdraw draft decision E/1994/L.32 from consideration.

Draft decision E/1994/L.32 was withdrawn.

Mr. MUCH (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that its members had voted against resolution 1994/56 in the Commission on Human Rights. According to Article 103, paragraph 3, of the Charter, the paramount consideration in the employment of staff was efficiency. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1994/56 appeared to misquote the Charter and to contradict its provisions. He was confident that the staff of the Centre for Human Rights would perform their duties with dedication, professionalism and impartiality, regardless of their country of origin. The European Union could see no justification for suggesting otherwise. The Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights could be counted on to apply the recruitment rules properly.

Mr. TELLER (Canada), supported by Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) and Ms. TOMKINSON (Australia), expressed strong support for the High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General in the strengthening of the Centre and its staffing. All Member States must defer to the authority of the High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General under Article 101 of the

(Mr. Teller, Canada)

Charter. His delegation had opposed the resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Rights because it seemed to be making an assessment and it believed that Member States should refrain from intervening in the management of the Secretariat.

Mr. SREENIVASAN (India) said that the decision to call for a report on the staffing of the Centre for Human Rights had already been taken. After the Vienna Declaration, it was understood that consensus was required on human rights issues; the staff of the Centre should therefore be more balanced. It was in that spirit that the review had been requested.

Mr. LIU Xinsheng (China) said that his delegation had voted in favour of resolution 1994/56. The Charter had never been fully implemented in respect of representation at the Centre, and the matter should remain under review.

Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) agreed with the views expressed by the representative of India. Her delegation had confidence in the ability of the High Commissioner to bring about the necessary changes at the Centre.

Mr. USUI (Japan) said that his delegation had also been opposed to resolution 1994/56 of the Commission on Human Rights. Geographical distribution should be reviewed from a system-wide perspective, not with regard to the Centre for Human Rights alone.

Draft decision E/1994/L.44

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision E/1994/L.44 without a vote.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the following documents submitted to it under agenda item 5 (d) and (h): A/49/41, A/49/261-E/1994/110 and E/1994/117, and A/49/139-E/1994/57.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 5.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/1994/L.22 and L.45)

Mr. BARAC (Romania) introduced draft decision E/1994/L.45, which had been prepared on the basis of informal consultations on draft decision E/1994/L.22. Since it was based on consensus, he recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

Mr. RUNGE (Germany) noted that two changes had been agreed to in the text of the draft decision: the word "on" in the fourth line of subparagraph (a) should read "of", and the commas after the words "endorsed", "Council" and "outcome" should be deleted.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision E/1994/L.45, as revised, and that draft decision E/1994/L.22 had been withdrawn.

It was so decided.

Ms. WILLIAMS (United States of America) said that at the last meeting of the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development her delegation had proposed the addition of an item on the agenda for the third session dealing with United Nations system coordination. It had understood that the Chairman had agreed to that proposal. He delegation would therefore like it to be noted that, under item 3 of the Commission's provisional agenda, the United States intended to address the issue of United nations system coordination in support of the implementation of Agenda 21 and that it expected that time would be allotted in the programme of work to enable interested Governments to conduct a thorough discussion of the issue.

Mr. TROTTIER (Canada) said it was his delegation's understanding that the draft decision would make possible the actual accreditation to the Economic and Social Council of the list of non-governmental organizations accredited to the Economic and Social Council which had attended the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and that it would nevertheless be possible, for the Open-ended Working Group on the Status of Non-governmental Organizations to review the scope of the decision within the framework of its review of all questions relating to the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT proposed the following draft decision for adoption by the Council:

"The Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development proposed, in paragraph 20 of his summary of the high-level meeting of the Commission, that options be explored to modify the pattern of election of the officers of the Commission. This proposal was accepted by the Commission.

"In view of this, the Council is asked to decide to permit the Commission on Sustainable Development to explore possibilities to elect its Bureau at a time other than at the first meeting of a regular session, to allow the Bureau to give guidance to the preparatory process of the Commission's sessions.

"The Council is also asked to decide to allow the Commission to hold a brief organizational meeting to elaborate a recommendation on this matter for adoption by the Council in early 1995. This meeting could be

(The President)

held in conjunction with one of its ad hoc inter-sessional working groups to avoid financial implications."

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the following documents submitted to it under agenda item 6 (a): E/1994/43 and E/1994/47.

It was so decided.

(c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/1994/L.17)

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that agreement had been reached in informal consultations that no action should be taken on draft resolution E/1994/L.17.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council agreed.

It was so decided.

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued) E/1994/50 and Add.1 and 2)

Draft proposals recommended by the Economic Commission for Africa<

Draft resolution I

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that agreement had been reached in informal consultations on the following amendments to draft resolution. The third preambular paragraph should be replaced by the following:

"Recognizing that during the period of the Programme of Action many African countries have made progress in fulfilling their undertakings and that further progress remains critically dependent on their access to financing from the international community, including those official and private resources in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;".

The fourth preambular paragraph should be replaced by the following:

"Noting that the first two years of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s have been affected by constrained financial resource flows to Africa;".

Paragraph 9 should be reworded to read:

"Invites the Secretary-General, in the framework of the restructuring of the Secretariat, to explore ways and means to strengthen the capacity and capability of the Economic Commission for African to fulfil its coordinating, follow-up and monitoring role in the implementation of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s."

With those amendments, he recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution I, as amended.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution II

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that in paragraph 3 of draft resolution II, the words "to continue" should be inserted after the words "United Nations".

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution II, as amended.

Draft resolution III

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that agreement had been reached to delete paragraph 3 of draft resolution III.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution III, as amended.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution IV

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that the following amendments to draft resolution IV had been agreed on. At the beginning of paragraph 2, the words "Call upon" should be replaced by the word "Invites". In the fifth line of that paragraph, the words "allocate substantial resources" should be replaced by the words "contribute financial and technical resources needed". The last part of paragraph 3, after the words "industrial sector" should read: "ensuring that the implementation of the structural adjustment programmes and the programme for the second Decade are mutually supportive". In the second line of paragraph 4, the words "to take concrete steps" should be replaced by the words "to report on concrete steps taken". In paragraph 10, the words "Requests the General Assembly to allocate increased resources to the Economic Commission for Africa to enable it..." should be replaced by the following: "Invites the General Assembly to further ensure that necessary resources are allocated to the Economic Commission for Africa to enable it..."

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution IV as amended.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution V

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said it had been agreed that paragraph 10 of draft resolution V should be replaced by the following: "Invites the General Assembly to review its programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 in the spirit of its decision 48/453 with a view to permitting the delivery of activities in the subprogramme of the Economic Commission for Africa on information systems development."

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution which were contained in document E/1994/50/Add.1. He took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution V, as amended.

It was so decided.

Draft recommendation in paragraph 7 of document E/1994/50

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft recommendation in paragraph 7 of document E/1994/50.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution II recommended by the Economic and social Commission for Western Asia

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said it had been agreed that a subparagraph (c) should be inserted in paragraph 5 of draft resolution II which would read: "To ensure that the transfer is financed within existing resources and primarily from extrabudgetary contributions and without prejudice to planned cost savings."

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, which were contained in document E/1994/50/Add.2. He took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution II, as amended.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.